

Henry Van Brunt House  
167 Brattle Street  
Cambridge  
Middlesex County  
Massachusetts

HABS No. MA-874

HABS  
MASS,  
9-CAMB.  
65-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240

HABS  
MASS,  
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ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

STATE Massachusetts	COUNTY Middlesex	TOWN OR VICINITY Cambridge
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) Henry Van Brunt House		HABS NO. MA-874
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) 167 Brattle Street (front door faces on Channing Place)		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) 1883	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE) Henry Van Brunt	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) One of the best and finest Queen Anne-style houses in Cambridge, designed as his own residence by Henry Van Brunt, one of the foremost American architects of the period. Henry Van Brunt translated Viollet-le-Duc, with partner Ware designed Memorial Hall at Harvard (1867),		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE) Queen Anne		(cont'd in Other information below)
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) Clapboards and four patterns of shingles over wood frame		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) 50' x 27', two-and-a-half stories		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE Variety of surface treatments; many gables; porches with elaborate turned posts and intricate balustrade.		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) Doorway of walnut with molded frames and carved lintel blocks; three mantels with elaborate overmantels on first floor		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES ca. 1917 - converted into two houses; large original stairway taken out and replaced by smaller one; third stair built as main stair for second house; otherwise little remodelling in front part of house.		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE (cont'd from Significance above) and with partner Howe designed one of the buildings for the 1893 Chicago World's Fair. In 1887 he moved from Cambridge to Kansas City where he did much design work for the railroads and was a leading architect of that city.		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) Milman, Roger, "Victorian Houses of Old Cambridge," Cambridge Historical Society 26:45-46. Middlesex Co. Deeds 1635/390, land purchased March, 1883, by Henry Van Brunt; 1823/261, sold October 1887 to Sarah Swan.		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION Alison K. Hoagland, HABS, October, 1984, from field work undertaken by Bainbridge Bunting		DATE August, 1964